

REMARKS

ELECTION

Previously pending claims 16-29 were deemed to recite two patentably distinct inventions, including the method recited in Group I claims 16 and 17 and the article recited in Group II claims 18-29. Applicants hereby elect prosecution of the article in Group II without traverse. Claims 16 and 17 of Group I are thus hereby canceled without prejudice to their being filed in one or more divisional applications.

CLAIM 18 and NEW CLAIM 30

Claim 18 is amended herein to remove the subject matter related to the two-shot molding process and to recite that the ribs are resilient relative to the cap shell. The deleted subject matter is being picked up in new claim 30. Claim 30 thus defines the claimed grip cap article to be made of a particular two-shot molding process.

The amendments made herein are (1) not narrowing in nature and (2) have been made prior to the substantive examination of the claims, and thus have not been made for the purpose of achieving patentability of the claims in response to a rejection. Thus, the Festo limitation of the doctrine of equivalents should not be implicated by the amendments made herein.

Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims 18-30 be entered into the record, and further that all pending claims be allowed to issue.

No fees are believed due for consideration of this timely filed response. Authorization is hereby given, however, to charge any fees deemed necessary to Deposit Account 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

John J. Hahn, et al.

By:

Steven J. Wietrzny
Reg. No. 44,402
Attorney for Applicant
Quarles & Brady LLP
411 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 277-5415